TOP SECRET

ASSIFIED BY 3832
XEMPT FROM GDS CATEGORY 2
DATE OF DECLASSIFICATION INDEFINITE
2/16/78

May 13, 1969

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

REASONS FOR REQUEST OF
ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE AUTHORIZATION

[redacted]

SECURITY PURPOSES INTENDED TO BE SERVED BY
SURVEILLANCE WHEN INSTITUTED AND PERIODICALLY CONTINUED

The security purposes intended to be served by this surveillance were to determine the extent of communist influence on King, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and the racial situation in general. By his activities, King had become recognized by many as the "national leader" of Negro civil rights and the integration movement.

INFORMATION CONCERNING WHETHER OR NOT COVERAGE WAS
MONITORED ON DIFFERENT SURVEILLANCES ON THE SAME PREMISES

No other coverage was monitored on different surveillances on the same premises.

NATIONAL SECURITY DANGERS WHICH COULD RESULT
FROM DISCLOSURE OF SURVEILLANCE TO THE DEFENSE

Though this electronic surveillance has been discontinued, its disclosure to the defense would be prejudicial to national security interests since pertinent data developed regarding the activities of the CPUSA would be revealed.

1 - 100-106670
(Martin Luther King, Jr.)
1 - 66-8160
CEG:fsh (10)

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importance, as all programs and policies of the NOI are determined by Elijah Muhammad. This surveillance was found to be productive in developing information regarding meetings between Elijah Muhammad and other black leaders and extremists, and ascertained the various travel plans of Elijah Muhammad and other high ranking leaders of the NOI.

INFORMATION CONCERNING WHETHER OR NOT COVERAGE HAS MONITORED ON DIFFERENT SURVEILLANCES ON THE SAME PREMISES

No other coverage was monitored on different surveillances on the same premises.

NATIONAL SECURITY DANGERS WHICH COULD RESULT FROM DISCLOSURE OF SURVEILLANCE TO THE DEFENSE

Disclosure of the electronic surveillances to the defense holds the inherent danger of unleashed hatred of the white man in the form of violence by over 6,000 fanatical followers of Elijah Muhammad. These devoted and well-disciplined followers would unhesitatingly carry out a program of violence against the "white devils," if such was ordered by Elijah Muhammad.

Attached is one copy each of the following:

Memorandum for the Attorney General, dated December 31, 1956, captioned "Elijah Mohammed, Internal Security - NOI," which represents the original request for authority to install the electronic surveillance of Elijah Muhammad.

Memorandum for the Attorney General, dated July 1, 1966, captioned "Nation of Islam, Internal Security - NOI," advising the telephone surveillance was discontinued on June 23, 1966.

Memorandum from Mr. F. J. Baumgardner to Mr. W. C. Sullivan, dated September 8, 1961, captioned "Nation of Islam, Internal Security - NOI," which represents the recommendation for installation of microphone installation.